

Exodus Chapter Thirty-Five

Read **Exodus 35:1-3** – Israel Hears God's Words

v.1 “THEN MOSES GATHERED ALL THE CONGREGATION OF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL TOGETHER, AND SAID TO THEM, “THESE *are* THE WORDS WHICH THE LORD HAS COMMANDED *you* TO DO:”

As we saw in the prior chapter, Moses has now returned from the second trip to the mountain to receive from God His covenant and commandments for Israel. So he gathers the people of Israel together and exercises his responsibilities as their lawgiver.

A second thing that we should note from this verse is that Israel is to keep God's commandments. Many people, especially those of the world, seem to think that this is an impossible task. Some brethren even make that statement of the Mosaic Covenant. Is this true? No.

I John 5:2-4 “BY THIS WE KNOW THAT WE LOVE THE CHILDREN OF GOD, WHEN WE LOVE GOD AND KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS. FOR THIS IS THE LOVE OF GOD, THAT WE KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS. AND HIS COMMANDMENTS ARE NOT BURDENSOME. FOR WHATEVER IS BORN OF GOD OVERCOMES THE WORLD. AND THIS IS THE VICTORY THAT HAS OVERCOME THE WORLD—OUR FAITH.”

v.2 “WORK SHALL BE DONE FOR SIX DAYS, BUT THE SEVENTH DAY SHALL BE A HOLY DAY FOR YOU, A SABBATH OF REST TO THE **LORD**. WHOEVER DOES ANY WORK ON IT SHALL BE PUT TO DEATH.”

We see again that the Sabbath day, Saturday on our calendar was made a holy day or a day to be hallowed, honored with no work under the Law of Moses. Did that mean that absolutely nothing could be done as the scribes and Pharisees taught during Jesus' day? No.

Matthew 12:10-12 “AND BEHOLD, THERE WAS A MAN WHO HAD A WITHERED HAND. AND THEY ASKED HIM, SAYING, “IS IT LAWFUL TO HEAL ON THE SABBATH?”—THAT THEY MIGHT ACCUSE HIM. THEN HE SAID TO THEM, “WHAT MAN IS THERE AMONG YOU WHO HAS ONE SHEEP, AND IF IT FALLS INTO A PIT ON THE SABBATH, WILL NOT LAY HOLD OF IT AND LIFT *it* OUT? OF HOW MUCH MORE VALUE THEN IS A MAN THAN A SHEEP? THEREFORE IT IS LAWFUL TO DO GOOD ON THE SABBATH.”

While there were some things that were specifically forbidden, Jesus applied some common sense to the application of this commandment.

v.3 “YOU SHALL KINDLE NO FIRE THROUGHOUT YOUR DWELLINGS ON THE SABBATH DAY.”

Exodus Chapter Thirty-Five

Here we see one of the specific prohibitions of something that could not be done on the Sabbath. Yet we saw in an earlier study this instruction concerning the feast of unleavened bread:

Exodus 12:16 “ON THE FIRST DAY *there shall be* A HOLY CONVOCATION, AND ON THE SEVENTH DAY THERE SHALL BE A HOLY CONVOCATION FOR YOU. NO MANNER OF WORK SHALL BE DONE ON THEM; BUT *that* WHICH EVERYONE MUST EAT—THAT ONLY MAY BE PREPARED BY YOU.”

Those things necessary for the family to eat could be prepared, however, apparently without making a fire. And some would point to these commandments and say, see here is a conflict, a contradiction in God’s Law. But is it? In the wilderness how was food prepared for the Sabbath?

Exodus 16:23 “THEN HE SAID TO THEM, “THIS *is what* THE LORD HAS SAID: ‘TOMORROW *is* A SABBATH REST, A HOLY SABBATH TO THE LORD. BAKE WHAT YOU WILL BAKE *today*, AND BOIL WHAT YOU WILL BOIL; AND LAY UP FOR YOURSELVES ALL THAT REMAINS, TO BE KEPT UNTIL MORNING.’”

On the sixth day they were to lay up what was needed for the Sabbath. While this would minimize the amount of preparation required, someone would still need to do some amount of work to feed the family during the day.

Read **Exodus 35:4-19** – God’s Commandment; Tabernacle Offering

v.4 “AND MOSES SPOKE TO ALL THE CONGREGATION OF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL, SAYING, “THIS *is* THE THING WHICH THE LORD COMMANDED, SAYING:”

Again, Moses reminds Israel that what follows is the commandment of the Lord. Many preachers seem to neglect that admonition today because their hearers want what God commands to be optional, not mandatory. But they forget or never knew that Jesus said:

Matthew 7:21 “NOT EVERYONE WHO SAYS TO ME, ‘LORD, LORD,’ SHALL ENTER THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN, BUT HE WHO DOES THE WILL OF MY FATHER IN HEAVEN.”

v.5 “TAKE FROM AMONG YOU AN OFFERING TO THE LORD. WHOEVER *is* OF A WILLING HEART, LET HIM BRING IT AS AN OFFERING TO THE LORD: GOLD, SILVER, AND BRONZE,”

Exodus Chapter Thirty-Five

Many, especially those who do not study the Old Testament carefully, picture the Mosaic Law as being arbitrary, specific and demanding and in many ways it was. If they see the application of this covenant only through the eyes of the Pharisees of Jesus' day we can possibly understand some of the reason for their thinking. But we see here and we saw at the time the commandment was given to Moses; that the tabernacle and its contents were to be provided through free-will offerings of the Israelite people. They had to be "WILLING" to give, just as we are today:

II Corinthians 9:7 "***So let*** EACH ONE ***give*** AS HE PURPOSES IN HIS HEART, NOT GRUDGINGLY OR OF NECESSITY; FOR GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER."

This verse specifically addresses the need for gold, silver and bronze or brass; materials needed to construct the structural components of the tabernacle and those things required for God's worship.

v.6-7 "BLUE, PURPLE, AND SCARLET ***thread***, FINE LINEN, AND GOATS' ***hair***; RAM SKINS DYED RED, BADGER SKINS, AND ACACIA WOOD;"

The materials needed to make the tabernacle and the tent that covered it.

v.8 "OIL FOR THE LIGHT, AND SPICES FOR THE ANOINTING OIL AND FOR THE SWEET INCENSE;"

We looked at the recipes for the anointing oil and sweet incense in **Exodus 30:22-38**.

v.9 "ONYX STONES, AND STONES TO BE SET IN THE EPHOD AND IN THE BREASTPLATE."

The onyx and the other stones to be set in the ephod were reviewed in detail in our study of **Exodus 28**.

v.10 "ALL ***who ARE*** GIFTED ARTISANS AMONG YOU SHALL COME AND MAKE ALL THAT THE **LORD** HAS COMMANDED:"

Moses now puts out a call for all of those among the people of Israel who are "GIFTED ARTISANS" or as translated in the KJV "WISE HEARTED". As we studied earlier God is requiring a level of craftsmanship that many people would doubt existed without the more precise measuring instruments and tools of a later period. But we also remember that at least some of these people had been especially prepared by God for that purpose.

Exodus Chapter Thirty-Five

Exodus 31:2 “SEE, I HAVE CALLED BY NAME BEZALEL THE SON OF URI, THE SON OF HUR, OF THE TRIBE OF JUDAH: **v.6** “AND I, INDEED I, HAVE APPOINTED WITH HIM AHOLIAB THE SON OF AHISAMACH, OF THE TRIBE OF DAN; AND I HAVE PUT WISDOM IN THE HEARTS OF ALL THE GIFTED ARTISANS, THAT THEY MAY MAKE ALL THAT I HAVE COMMANDED YOU;”

They are to make all that God has commanded and then Moses begins a listing of those things that are required.

v.11 “THE TABERNACLE, ITS TENT, ITS COVERING, ITS CLASPS, ITS BOARDS, ITS BARS, ITS PILLARS, AND ITS SOCKETS,”

Moses enumerates God’s requirements in the order that they were given to him. First the dwelling place of God. Remember that the tabernacle is in fact separate from the tent in God’s view. It is the interior of the tabernacle that encompasses the Holy Place and Most Holy Place and the tent is the shelter that covers and protects it.

v.12 “THE ARK AND ITS POLES, *with* THE MERCY SEAT, AND THE VEIL OF THE COVERING,”

Then he mentions the Ark of the Covenant with its mercy seat, the place that God will meet with the High Priest each year. The “VEIL OF THE COVERING” is the veil between the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place. This is the veil that was rent from top to bottom at the death of Jesus:

Matthew 27:51 “THEN, BEHOLD, THE VEIL OF THE TEMPLE WAS TORN IN TWO FROM TOP TO BOTTOM; AND THE EARTH QUAKED, AND THE ROCKS WERE SPLIT,”

v.13 “THE TABLE AND ITS POLES, ALL ITS UTENSILS, AND THE SHOWBREAD;”

Next we have the table of “SHOWBREAD” and the bread itself. We also looked at the recipe for the bread in our study of **Exodus 25:30** and:

Leviticus 24:5-6 “AND YOU SHALL TAKE FINE FLOUR AND BAKE TWELVE CAKES WITH IT. TWO-TENTHS *OF an ephah* SHALL BE IN EACH CAKE. YOU SHALL SET THEM IN TWO ROWS, SIX IN A ROW, ON THE PURE *gold* TABLE BEFORE THE LORD.”

v.14 “ALSO THE LAMPSTAND FOR THE LIGHT, ITS UTENSILS, ITS LAMPS, AND THE OIL FOR THE LIGHT,”

Exodus Chapter Thirty-Five

The lampstand or candlestick and all of the items necessary for it's use, including the oil.

v.15 “THE INCENSE ALTAR, ITS POLES, THE ANOINTING OIL, THE SWEET INCENSE, AND THE SCREEN FOR THE DOOR AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE TABERNACLE;”

This completes the listing of those items within the Holy Place and includes the screen or covering for the opening at the front.

Exodus 26:36 “YOU SHALL MAKE A SCREEN FOR THE DOOR OF THE TABERNACLE, *woven of* BLUE, PURPLE, AND SCARLET *thread*, AND FINE WOVEN LINEN, MADE BY A WEAVER.”

v.16 “THE ALTAR OF BURNT OFFERING WITH ITS BRONZE GRATING, ITS POLES, ALL ITS UTENSILS, *and* THE LAVENDER AND ITS BASE;”

Now he turns to those items that were required that were in the courtyard outside of the tabernacle tent.

v.17-18 “THE HANGINGS OF THE COURT, ITS PILLARS, THEIR SOCKETS, AND THE SCREEN FOR THE GATE OF THE COURT; ¹⁸ THE PEGS OF THE TABERNACLE, THE PEGS OF THE COURT, AND THEIR CORDS;”

This refers to the outside boundary of the courtyard that we studied in **Exodus 27:9-19**.

v.19 “THE GARMENTS OF MINISTRY, FOR MINISTERING IN THE HOLY *place*— THE HOLY GARMENTS FOR AARON THE PRIEST AND THE GARMENTS OF HIS SONS, TO MINISTER AS PRIESTS.”

The garments of Aaron and his sons we reviewed in detail in our study of **Exodus 28** but there are more garments mentioned here. “THE GARMENTS OF MINISTRY” are referred to in the KJV as the “CLOTHS OF SERVICE”. In our study of **Exodus 31:10**, we passed over them without comment. But when we look at this verse we see that the commentators don't agree. One calls them “the garments of office to do service in the Sanctuary”, another “probably aprons, towels and such like, used in the common service and different from the vestments for Aaron and his sons, another quotes **Exodus 31:10** and leaves the phrase out entirely, in **Exodus 35:19** he quotes the verse correctly but does not comment on what these garments might be.

Read **Exodus 35:20-29** – Israel's Response

Exodus Chapter Thirty-Five

v.20-21 “AND ALL THE CONGREGATION OF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL DEPARTED FROM THE PRESENCE OF MOSES. THEN EVERYONE CAME WHOSE HEART WAS STIRRED, AND EVERYONE WHOSE SPIRIT WAS WILLING, **and** THEY BROUGHT THE **LORD’S** OFFERING FOR THE WORK OF THE TABERNACLE OF MEETING, FOR ALL ITS SERVICE, AND FOR THE HOLY GARMENTS.”

Again we see that the house of God, just as is the church of the living God is sustained today, was built using only the free-will offerings of the Israelite nation. Evidently this same open-handed generosity was used to provide, at least part, of the furnishings for the temple:

I Chronicles 29:9 “THEN THE PEOPLE REJOICED, FOR THEY HAD OFFERED WILLINGLY, BECAUSE WITH A LOYAL HEART THEY HAD OFFERED WILLINGLY TO THE **LORD**; AND KING DAVID ALSO REJOICED GREATLY.”

And that was remembered many years later when the temple was re-established after the captivity:

Ezra 8:28 “AND I SAID TO THEM, “YOU **are** HOLY TO THE **LORD**; THE ARTICLES **are** HOLY ALSO; AND THE SILVER AND THE GOLD **are** A FREEWILL OFFERING TO THE **LORD** GOD OF YOUR FATHERS.”

v.22 “THEY CAME, BOTH MEN AND WOMEN, AS MANY AS HAD A WILLING HEART, **and** BROUGHT EARRINGS AND NOSE RINGS, RINGS AND NECKLACES, ALL JEWELRY OF GOLD, THAT IS, EVERY MAN WHO **made** AN OFFERING OF GOLD TO THE **LORD**.”

Again we note that the material needed to make the ark, candlestick, and other furniture and utensils for the tabernacle were made from gold was freely and willingly given for that purpose. These offerings were made from a “WILLING HEART” and implies a picture of them being joyful to be able to do so.

I was a little surprised to see the words “NOSE RINGS” in the NKJV. The other reliable translations use the word “RINGS” (KJV), “SIGNET-RINGS”, (ASV). The only nose rings I every used was those needed to lead a 2,000 bull where we wanted him to go.

v. 23 “AND EVERY MAN, WITH WHOM WAS FOUND BLUE, PURPLE, AND SCARLET **thread**, FINE LINEN, GOATS’ **hair**, RED SKINS OF RAMS, AND BADGER SKINS, BROUGHT **them**.”

The material for the sanctuary and the tent were gathered in the same way.

Exodus Chapter Thirty-Five

v.24 “EVERYONE WHO OFFERED AN OFFERING OF SILVER OR BRONZE BROUGHT THE **LORD’S** OFFERING. AND EVERYONE WITH WHOM WAS FOUND ACACIA WOOD FOR ANY WORK OF THE SERVICE, BROUGHT *it*.”

v.25 “All THE WOMEN *who were* GIFTED ARTISANS SPUN YARN WITH THEIR HANDS, AND BROUGHT WHAT THEY HAD SPUN, OF BLUE, PURPLE, *and* SCARLET, AND FINE LINEN.”

The women of Israel were not neglected nor did they neglect to provide those things that they had the special talent to provide.

v.26 “AND ALL THE WOMEN WHOSE HEARTS STIRRED WITH WISDOM SPUN YARN OF GOATS’ *hair*.”

As we noted in an earlier study this “GOATS’ *hair*” was probably not the course variety that we would expect to see from the goats that we might be familiar with but rather a finer hair more on the order of cashmere.

v.27-28 “THE RULERS BROUGHT ONYX STONES, AND THE STONES TO BE SET IN THE EPHOD AND IN THE BREASTPLATE, AND SPICES AND OIL FOR THE LIGHT, FOR THE ANOINTING OIL, AND FOR THE SWEET INCENSE.”

These two verses would seem to indicate that the gold, silver and bronze was more common among the people than precious stones and the ingredients for the anointing oil and incense. It would also indicate that these were the more costly items, not readily obtainable by the average person.

v.29 “THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL BROUGHT A FREEWILL OFFERING TO THE **LORD**, ALL THE MEN AND WOMEN WHOSE HEARTS WERE WILLING TO BRING *material* FOR ALL KINDS OF WORK WHICH THE **LORD**, BY THE HAND OF MOSES, HAD COMMANDED TO BE DONE.”

Again the scriptures emphasize the nature of the offering brought before the Lord by Israel. It is also the first record that I could find of a “FREEWILL OFFERING”, a term that we use yet today to describe the means by which the church of the living God is supported.

Read **Exodus 35:30-35** – God’s Artisans Called

v.30 “AND MOSES SAID TO THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL, “SEE, THE **LORD** HAS CALLED BY NAME BEZALEL THE SON OF URI, THE SON OF HUR, OF THE TRIBE OF JUDAH;”

Exodus Chapter Thirty-Five

Moses now brings before the people those whom God has chosen to oversee the work and make sure that His commandments are carried out as He requires. The first is Bezalel the son of Uri.

v.31 “AND HE HAS FILLED HIM WITH THE SPIRIT OF GOD, IN WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING, IN KNOWLEDGE AND ALL MANNER OF WORKMANSHIP,”

Moses presents the credentials of God’s choice, making the people aware that this man has been given the special talents and knowledge that was needed to accomplish what God wanted accomplished. We also see a parallel here as well. Just as God directed the craftsmanship and building of the tabernacle, He directs the building of the church today through the Holy Spirit.

v.32-33 “TO DESIGN ARTISTIC WORKS, TO WORK IN GOLD AND SILVER AND BRONZE, IN CUTTING JEWELS FOR SETTING, IN CARVING WOOD, AND TO WORK IN ALL MANNER OF ARTISTIC WORKMANSHIP.”

As one commentator points out, not only would Israel need to provide through their freewill offering the material to build the tabernacle and its furnishings and utensils but also the tools. The cutting tools for the precious stones, the looms for weaving, the anvils, hammers and other tools to work silver, gold and bronze.

v.34 “AND HE HAS PUT IN HIS HEART THE ABILITY TO TEACH, *in* HIM AND AHOLIAB THE SON OF AHISAMACH, OF THE TRIBE OF DAN.”

God “HAS PUT IN HIS HEART THE ABILITY TO TEACH”. Therefore the skills necessary to make the things that God needed may not have been readily available among the Israelite people. Some of those skills are enumerated in the next verse.

v.35 “HE HAS FILLED THEM WITH SKILL TO DO ALL MANNER OF WORK OF THE ENGRAVER AND THE DESIGNER AND THE TAPESTRY MAKER, IN BLUE, PURPLE, AND SCARLET *thread*, AND FINE LINEN, AND OF THE WEAVER— THOSE WHO DO EVERY WORK AND THOSE WHO DESIGN ARTISTIC WORKS.”

Again we see the implication that God directed these men and provided the special skills required.